

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of displaying layered data, said method
2 comprising:
3 selecting one or more objects to be displayed in a
4 plurality of layers;
5 identifying a plurality of display attributes, wherein
6 one or more of the display attributes corresponds
7 to each of the layers;
8 matching each of the objects to one of the layers;
9 applying the display attributes corresponding to the
10 layer for each of the matched objects; and
11 displaying the objects with the applied display
12 attributes.
- 1 2. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 receiving a request from a user to rearrange the
3 layers;
4 rearranging the layers in response to the request, the
5 rearranging including:
6 re-matching one or more objects to a different
7 layer from the plurality of layers;
8 applying the display attributes corresponding to
9 the different layer to the one or more re-
10 matched objects; and
11 displaying the one or more re-matched objects.
- 1 3. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 reading the objects from a data store; and
3 reading one or more object attributes corresponding to
4 each object from the data store,
5 wherein the matching further comprises:

6 matching the object attributes corresponding to
7 each object to one or more layer attributes
8 corresponding to each layer.

1 4. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 creating the objects;
3 setting one or more object attributes corresponding to
4 each object; and
5 storing the object and the object attributes in a data
6 store.

1 5. The method as described in claim 4 further comprising:
2 establishing one or more relationships from at least
3 one of the objects to one or more other objects.

1 6. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the display
2 attributes are selected from the group consisting of:
3 color hue, color value, color saturation, size, three
4 dimensional image, two dimensional image, animation,
5 shading, fill pattern, line pattern, line weight,
6 opaqueness, transparency, proximity, shape, and object
7 anomaly.

1 7. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 displaying one or more relationship lines connecting
3 at least one of the objects to one or more other
4 objects.

1 8. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 determining a layer order for the plurality of layers,
3 wherein the layer order determines a display
4 emphasis corresponding to objects in the
5 corresponding layers.

- 1 9. An information handling system comprising:
2 one or more processors;
3 a memory accessible by the processors;
4 a nonvolatile storage area accessible by the
5 processors;
6 a display screen accessible by the processors; and
7 a layered data display tool to display layered data on
8 the display screen, the layered data display tool
9 including:
10 logic for selecting one or more objects to be
11 displayed in a plurality of layers;
12 identification logic to identify a plurality of
13 display attributes, wherein one or more of
14 the display attributes corresponds to each
15 of the layers;
16 matching logic for matching each of the objects
17 to one of the layers;
18 applicator logic to apply the display attributes
19 corresponding to the layer for each of the
20 matched objects; and
21 display control logic to display the objects with
22 the applied display attributes.
- 23 10. The information handling system as described in claim
24 9 further comprising:
25 a rearranging request received from a user;
26 rearranging logic to rearrange the displayed layers,
27 the rearranging logic including:
28 re-matching logic to re-match one or more objects
29 to a different layer from the plurality of
30 layers;

31 application logic to apply the display attributes
32 corresponding to the different layer to the
33 one or more re-matched objects; and
34 display logic to display the one or more re-
35 matched objects.

36 11. The information handling system as described in claim
37 9 wherein the display attributes are selected from the
38 group consisting of: color hue, color value, color
39 saturation, size, three dimensional image, two
40 dimensional image, animation, shading, fill pattern,
41 line pattern, line weight, opaqueness, transparency,
42 proximity, shape, and object anomaly.

1 12. The information handling system as described in claim
2 9 further comprising:
3 logic to read the objects from a data store within the
4 nonvolatile storage area; and
5 logic to read one or more object attributes
6 corresponding to each object from the data store,
7 wherein the matching logic further comprises:
8 logic to match the object attributes
9 corresponding to each object to one or more
10 layer attributes corresponding to each layer

1 13. A computer program product stored on a computer usable
2 medium for displaying layered data, said computer
3 program product comprising:
4 means for selecting one or more objects to be
5 displayed in a plurality of layers;
6 means for identifying a plurality of display
7 attributes, wherein one or more of the display
8 attributes corresponds to each of the layers;

9 means for matching each of the objects to one of the
10 layers;
11 means for applying the display attributes
12 corresponding to the layer for each of the
13 matched objected; and
14 means for displaying the objects with the applied
15 display attributes.

1 14. The computer program product as described in claim 13
2 further comprising:
3 means for receiving a request from a user to rearrange
4 the layers;
5 means for rearranging the layers in response to the
6 request, the rearranging including:
7 means for re-matching one or more objects to a
8 different layer from the plurality of
9 layers;
10 means for applying the display attributes
11 corresponding to the different layer to the
12 one or more re-matched objects; and
13 means for displaying the one or more re-matched
14 objects.

1 15. The computer program product as described in claim 13
2 further comprising:
3 means for reading the objects from a data store; and
4 means for reading one or more object attributes
5 corresponding to each object from the data store,
6 wherein the matching further comprises:
7 means for matching the object attributes
8 corresponding to each object to one or more

9 layer attributes corresponding to each
10 layer.

1 16. The computer program product as described in claim 13
2 further comprising:
3 means for creating the objects;
4 means for setting one or more object attributes
5 corresponding to each object; and
6 means for storing the object and the object attributes
7 in a data store.

1 17. The computer program product as described in claim 16
2 further comprising:
3 means for establishing one or more relationships from
4 at least one of the objects to one or more other
5 objects.

1 18. The computer program product as described in claim 13
2 wherein the display attributes are selected from the
3 group consisting of: color hue, color value, color
4 saturation, size, three dimensional image, two
5 dimensional image, animation, shading, fill pattern,
6 line pattern, line weight, opaqueness, transparency,
7 proximity, shape, and object anomaly.

1 19. The computer program product as described in claim 13
2 further comprising:
3 means for displaying one or more relationship lines
4 connecting at least one of the objects to one or
5 more other objects.

1 20. The computer program product as described in claim 13
2 further comprising:

3 means for determining a layer order for the plurality
4 of layers, wherein the layer order determines a
5 display emphasis corresponding to objects in the
6 corresponding layers.